



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney*

*Eastern District of Virginia*

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*Paul J. McNulty  
United States Attorney*

*World Trade Center  
Suite 8000, 101 West Main Street  
Norfolk, Va. 23510*

*757/441-6331*

**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**For further information contact  
Deanna Warren 757-441-6331**

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that yesterday in the U.S. District Court in Norfolk Evert Aguirre-Renteria, age 29, of Eastville, in Northampton County, Virginia, pled guilty to being an illegal alien unlawfully in the United States in possession of a firearm and ammunition. Sentencing was set for April 13, 2006. Aguirre-Renteria faces up to ten years in prison.

As a result of the arrest of a state defendant in Northampton County, Virginia Drug Task Force Agents obtained a state search warrant for defendant Aguirre-Renteria's apartment at the William Hughes Apartments at 16075 Lankford Highway, in Eastville and executed the search warrant on September 29, 2005, and recovered \$6600 in cash, three cell phones, a loaded .380 caliber Hi Point Model CF semiautomatic pistol, a box of .380 caliber ammunition, and identification documents in the name of defendant Aguirre-Renteria that were based on a Social Security number belonging to another person. Aguirre-Renteria is a native and citizen of Mexico and was illegally in the United States. Federal agents of the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), were contacted by the state agents to assist. The case was prosecuted under Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)/EXILE.

PSN/EXILE is a federal program that uses a joint federal and state multi-agency approach to targeting armed criminals for prosecution in federal court for possession or use of firearms in violation of federal laws. It is a part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, a nationwide effort by the Department of Justice aimed at reducing violent crimes. Most firearms cases involve or are related to drug trafficking. Since its inception in Hampton Roads in late 1997, Project PSN/EXILE has produced over 1082 convictions and removed over 1841 firearms from armed criminals.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James A. Metcalfe.

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